

General Assembly of Members of the 16th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research

The International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, June 24, 1986

William J. Cunliffe, Secretary

Present: A maximum of 55 attended the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

Minutes of the Last General Assembly

These were approved without dissent.

Report of the Treasurer

B. J. Vermeer reported that the financial state of the ESDR was satisfactory. The balance in our bank accounts was on the order of 116,000 Dutch guilders. This represents an increase of approximately 4,000 guilders compared to last year. During the present financial year the income from fees was very similar to last year, on the order of 55,000 guilders, and from supporting members 42,000 guilders. There was less income from the exhibits and, as in previous years, there was a grant from the Dutch government, which kindly contributed toward the running expenses of the annual meeting of 1985.

On the expense side, the secretary's and treasurer's fees were somewhat higher, on the order of 46,000 guilders. The reason for this was that the secretary's expenses included some payments made in the present and previous financial years, consequent upon change in the secretariat. Recently the treasurer has had to pay more expenses to his secretary. The contribution to the JID was on the order of 67,000 guilders; the guest lectures cost 13,000 guilders. B. Vermeer explained that one problem with the financing of the JID was that although the ESDR membership fees are paid in guilders, the Society pays for the Journal in dollars. Because of the fluctuating dollar rate, usually in favour of the dollar, the Society sometimes loses a little money. W. van Vloten wondered whether it might be possible to pay the JID in guilders, since Elsevier is a Dutch/American company. However, as the Journal is printed in America this is unlikely; B. Vermeer will investigate. J. S. Saurat commented that the Society should make some profit from the Geneva meeting. Our thanks are due to B. J. Vermeer.

Report of the Programme Committee (P. Fritsch, Chairman, B. M. Czarnetzki, J. P. Ortonne, A. J. Thody, J. S. Saurat)

P. Fritsch commented that there was little to add to what members knew already about the existing meeting. He added that the Chairman for the next Programme Committee was J. P. Ortonne. The Board asked the members to please think about colleagues who could give guest lectures or contribute to workshops, and to inform the Secretary.

P. Fritsch commented that this year we received a record number of abstracts (392) which were considered by the Joint Programme Committee. Ninety-two (23.5%) were rejected and 300 (76.5%) were accepted—100 as posters and 200 as formal pre-

sentations in either plenary or concurrent sessions. This year we have increased the number of concurrent sessions to four. In discussions our membership felt that it was essential to have concurrent sessions. It was also pointed out that at the recent SID meeting in the United States all abstracts were accepted; apparently this did not produce much in the way of embarrassment from poor papers.

Quite correctly, K. Wolff pointed out that there were some typing errors in the booklet, of which this Secretary was aware. Unfortunately there was little time between the programme meeting and the scientific meeting, and this meant that there was virtually no time to check the proofs. It was also suggested that it would be a good idea to have an index system. Although this would be an ideal situation, time restraints might not make this possible. The Secretary reminded the membership that in the United States they do not have such a booklet and that our members appreciate receiving the booklet before the meeting. The secretariat will try their best to incorporate these suggestions.

There was also considerable discussion about workshops and their timing. In view of the likelihood that the Post Education Course will continue, the Programme Committee will consider having the workshops again on a Sunday evening. It was suggested by H. Schaefer that the present system tried in Geneva of having the workshops on a Sunday evening could be continued. On the other hand, B. Czarnetzki thought that the workshops could be spread over 2–3 days, giving people the possibility of attending as many workshops as possible. Clearly, the decision is now in the hands of the Programme Committee. The decision is multifactorial, depending on the number of abstracts and the timing of the postgraduate symposium. R. Marks emphasised the need for the posters to maintain the status equal to that of formal presentations.

Postgraduate Education Committee

J. Ring thanked the members of this committee—M. Greaves, E. Christophers, L. Juhlin, H. Schaefer, and K. Wolff. Feedback from the membership indicated that the postgraduate session was well received. It was attended by about 400 people, and everyone agreed unanimously that it was an excellent innovation and must be continued. K. Wolff, the Chairman, in conjunction with J. Ring, already has suggestions for next year.

Report of the Editor of The Journal of Investigative Dermatology

Dr. Howard Baden, the Editor of the JID, expressed his pleasure at attending the meeting and gave his report.

Dr. Baden reported the following:

"The Journal has continued to grow in 1985, and we received and published the largest number of original reports ever. The decision of the SID Board with the concurrence of the ESDR to

allow us to buy more pages will permit us to publish more papers. In the past few years we have had to reject some papers for lack of space, but fortunately this is no longer the case. We will of course, maintain the same high standards in evaluating submitted manuscripts.

"Last January Elsevier commenced publishing our Journal and this was done rather smoothly, and all of us at the editorial office appreciate the hard work of their staff. I also would like to thank the Williams & Wilkins Co. for its cooperation. We shall not forget the high quality of its performance over the years.

"I have received a number of favorable comments on the new format of the Journal and the change in the cover. Although an improved image may help, in the end we shall be judged by the content and the quality of the manuscripts. We still have some fine tuning to do with Elsevier and I would appreciate hearing about any suggestions for improvement.

"In This Issue . . ." is a new feature of the Journal which has been well received as judged by a limited survey of our readership. The committee helping to choose the papers (Drs. Irwin Braverman, Naomi Kanof, and Lloyd King), as well as Gina Kolata who writes them, are to be congratulated. We are fortunate to have a distinguished and talented science writer doing this and we are indebted to our Editor Emeritus Naomi Kanof for making the connection. We hope that the reviews help our readership understand and appreciate some of the papers in which the science is beyond their knowledge. Please let me know your response to these and I will pass them on to the committee.

"I would like to stress again the need for reviewers on all topics. Although we have had some volunteers as a result of our published notices, they are too few. Senior investigators and heads of departments and research units are not cooperating in identifying on a current basis those individuals in their groups who could help. It is difficult for the Editors to identify from a list of authors on a paper those individuals who are potential reviewers for other papers.

"The number and distribution of manuscripts received in 1985 is shown in Table I. We experienced another increase beyond 1984 of some 40 papers and expect that there may be more growth in future years. The data on original reports are shown in Table II. The ratio of manuscripts received from Europe and North America continued quite constant. We shall print about 50% of submitted manuscripts as a result of our new page allotment, which I am sure is good news. At the present time publication of papers is solely based on quality as we have adequate space as discussed above. This could change, however, if the number of submitted manuscripts further increases.

"The number of reviewers has increased again this year (Table III) and I am indebted to those individuals who have thoughtfully and promptly reviewed papers. Many individuals review more than one paper and this is particularly true for members of the Editorial Board.

"We published a record number of pages in 1985, 1151, which is 26 more than we are allotted and for which extra payment will have to be made to Williams & Wilkins. The number of published manuscripts is up to 215, which is higher than any previous year (Table IV). If the high submission rate of quality manuscripts is maintained the increased page allowance should allow us to publish even more papers."

C. Lapiere reported that there is inadequate contact between the Board of the JID and the ESDR. P. Fritsch commented that the reviews by G. Kolata were much appreciated by the Euro-

Table II. Original Reports

Submitted	486
Accepted	252 (52%)
Rejected	217 (45%)
Other (revisions, etc.)	17 (3%)

peans, but he informed the membership that there may be some cost incurred by the ESDR on a proportional basis, for this new venture.

Clinically Oriented Publications

(1) This year should see the publication of two books representing two meetings on genetics—one in Oslo and one in the United States. The invited editors are G. Wuepper and T. Gedde-Dahl. (2) Karger did not like our name on the front of the book but is happy with the logo. The members accepted this fact.

In the discussion it was emphasized that if an organizer of a clinically oriented symposium wished to publish the proceedings, then H. Hönigsmann must be given the first chance of publication; however, he does have the right to refuse.

Appointment of New Members

The following colleagues were accepted for membership:

Austria—N. Romani (Innsbruck), J. Smolle (Graz)
 Belgium—R. Rowlands (Leuven)
 Finland—M. Hannuksala (Oulu), N. Mashikilleysen (Helsinki)
 France—M. Bagot (Créteil), D. Hanau (Strasbourg), B. Coulomb (Créteil), M. T. Cavey (Valbonne), J. Czernielowski (Valbonne), F. Raynaud (Paris), P. Sajag (Créteil), R. Payne (Créteil), P. Morliere (Créteil), C. Prost (Créteil)
 Italy—M. Picardo (Rome), G. Doveil (Turin), M. Massimo (Turin), L. Francesca (Turin)
 Japan—T. Hashimoto (Tokyo), I. Katayama (Osaka)
 The Netherlands—J. Boer (Deventer), D. M. Boersma (Amsterdam), P. E. J. Van Erp (Amsterdam), P. C. M. Van der Kerkhof (Amsterdam), P. C. van Voorst Vader (Amsterdam), A. M. M. Kickhuis (Leiden), S. Pavel (Amsterdam)
 Saudi Arabia—N. Kallias (Kuwait)
 Spain—V. A. Allegre (Barcelona)
 Sweden—A. M. Ros (Stockholm), M. Lindberg (Stockholm)
 United Kingdom—J. N. W. Barker (London), S. M. Breathnach (London), R. Cerio (London), M. Edward (Glasgow), P. J. Dykes (Cardiff), R. D. R. Camp (London), J. Ferguson (Dundee), W. J. Hume (Leeds), E. Ingham (Leeds), J. Kearney (Wakefield), F. M. Watt (London), M. I. White (Aberdeen), D. Turner (Greenford), J. Kearney (Wakefield)
 West Germany—A. Kapp (Frieburg), J. Schweitzer (Heidelberg), S. Sollberg (Frankfurt)

Resignations

There were no resignations and no deaths.

Officers of the Board

There was considerable, and at times intense, discussion on the problem of appointments to the Board. K. Wolff and C. Lapiere made many valuable comments. At the suggestion of E. Frenk it was necessary to refer to the statutes for discussion. The Board recommended the following decisions based on the number of

Table I. Distribution of Papers Received in 1985

Original reports	486
Editorials	10
Supplements	35
Letters to the Editor	11
	542

Table III. Reviewers

North America	700
Europe	256
Other	31
Total	987

Table IV. Statistics of Publication From 1977 Through 1985

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Manuscripts received	282	250	336	351	410	427	411 ^a	503	542
Pages published	971 ^b	791	971	990	1023	944 ^c	1127 ^d	1123 ^d	1151 ^d
Original reports	111	139	123	144	161	187	193	197	215

^aTwenty fewer special issue papers compared to 1982.

^bIndicates pages had less printed material.

^cThe number of allotted pages for 1982 was 947.

^dThe number of allotted pages was 1125.

years certain members have been on the Board and our previous Board meeting.

A. Thody left the Board after six very valuable years. G. Volden and B. Vermeer were due to re-election, but G. Volden did not wish to be re-elected and the officers thanked him for his help.

The Board recommended that B. Vermeer be re-elected, and the new Board members are G. Wantzin (Copenhagen) and D. M. MacDonald (London). This issue was then voted on. There was one member against, five abstentions, and forty-nine in favour.

The new officers of the Board are P. Fritsch (President), W. J. Cunliffe (Secretary), and B. J. Vermeer (Treasurer).

The Programme Committee is J. P. Ortonne (Chairman), B. M. Czarnetzki, J. Karvonen, and D. M. MacDonald.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was purposely placed at this point in the meeting so that he could perhaps bring together some of the items already discussed and integrate a few facts about which the members might wish to know.

The Secretary thanked J. Saurat for organising the meeting so well and congratulated J. Ring and the Postgraduate Committee for putting together a Sunday's excellent educational session.

The Society is healthy. At this meeting we had a record of 520 participants and our membership, which was 480 prior to the meeting, has now risen by 52 to 533. The Board can now accept nominations at any time throughout the year.

Our Statutes and membership list are now virtually out of print and Schering (Germany) has kindly offered to print these booklets.

In an attempt to increase our supporting members who contribute £500 per annum, the Society is having printed, by the generosity of Roche (U.K.), an information booklet about the Society. These will be used to inform our new, potential supporting members.

The Secretary reported that it had been suggested by A. J. Thody that it would be preferable to have at least one nonmedical person assigned to the Board.

The Secretary reminded the membership that the newsletter was mailed twice yearly and that he would like to know of any item that the members may wish to include—such as the dates of the meetings. He emphasised that he was happy to use the letter as a mailing system for members.

The Secretary also thanked the members for improving the way in which they had completed their abstract form for the annual scientific meeting. Only 10 forms had to be retyped for the present meeting; the abbreviation list which had been circulated with the abstracts had also clearly been of considerable help.

In the past, there has been considerable discussion as to why the SID had their meeting in April whenever there was a joint meeting in Europe. The SID meets at the same time as the Tri-society. Initially this was for historical reasons, but there are now two reasons: to allow cross-fertilisation between dermatologists and other disciplines, and to demonstrate to nondermatologic colleagues that dermatologic research in the United States is of a high standard.

To minimise any misunderstanding between the two Societies, a representative of the ESDR Board will attend the SID Board meeting, and conversely, one of their members will attend our Board meetings.

Place and Date of Subsequent Meetings

1987—Aging and Skin Cancer and the ESDR Clinically Oriented International Symposium, Rome, Italy, February 15–17, 1987. 17th ESDR Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, Sunday, March 29 to Wednesday, April 1, 1987. Abstracts to be received by the Secretary (W. J. Cunliffe) by December 15, 1986.

Any Other Business

There was no further business. Dr. J. Saurat expressed his thanks to the Board during his term of office and welcomed P. Fritsch as the new President.